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MONDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 1954

Winthrop Aldrich came to see me this morning. We discussed various matters of mutual interest.

I sat the fifth time for my portrait by Léonor Fini, which is practically finished.

Tonight we were to go to Cecile de Rothschild's, but, as Evangeline had a recurrence of fever, we stayed at home.

I received today from President Eisenhower the following letter, dated November 16, 1954, which I must shortly answer:

"Dear David:

"Foster tells me that he asked you to take on the duties of 'Ambassador-at-Large' here in Washington and that you declined. While I quite understand why you and Vangie would not want to be stationed here, I had so set my heart on impressing you into the service here that I am bolden to ask you to think it over once more. I think you could be most helpful for the next couple of years; your experience, your talents and your personality would all be valuable, particularly under the political situation which must now exist here.

"Of course I realize that you and Vangie may have reasons that I or anyone else would consider overriding. In such case I assure you that I accept your decision without further question. But if your reasons are, to you, less compelling, then I merely say that I would be most appreciative of your taking a second look at the proposition.

"Mamie joins me in love to your nice bride, and, of course, in warmest regard to yourself.

As ever,

/s/ D. E."

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Mendès has evidently had a great public success in the United States. I continue to think his political adversaries here underestimate his popularity amongst the people. His sense of public relations appears to me to be infinitely better than that of any of his predecessors. By stating he did not favor a meeting with the Russians until the London-Paris accords were ratified, he will have soothed in the United States the apprehensions of people who suspected him on this point.

Vishinsky died of a heart attack in New York tonight at the age of 70. He was a brilliant, attractive, cruel man.

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